

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER 2008

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in metric tons (t) for the months of October, November, and December 2008 was as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Production (month)</u>	<u>Production (average daily)</u>
October 2008	52,200 t	1,680 t
November 2008	52,800 t	1,760 t
December 2008	64,700 t	2,090 t

Total stocks of zinc held in global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) warehouses at the end of October, November, and December 2008 were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Stocks</u>
October 2008	181,950 t
November 2008	193,050 t
December 2008	253,475 t

There were no aggregated cash disposals (sales) of zinc in October, November, and December 2008 from the National Defense Stockpile (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008a, b; 2009).

Monthly average prices for Special High Grade Zinc (North American and LME cash) can be found in table 7.

References Cited

- Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008a, Stockpile announces BOA sales for November 2008: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, December 5, 1 p.
- Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008b, Stockpile announces BOA sales for October 2008: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, November 5, 1 p.
- Defense National Stockpile Center, 2009, Stockpile announces BOA sales for December 2008: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, January 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007	2008					Year to date ²
	January-December	August	September	October	November	December	
Production:							
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ³	803,000	64,200 ^r	61,100 ^r	54,300	54,900	67,200	778,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ³	769,000	61,600 ^r	58,700 ^r	52,200	52,800	64,700	748,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,4}	278,000	24,600	24,600	22,300	22,300	22,300	286,000
Consumption:							
Apparent, refined zinc ⁵	1,050,000	77,000	87,100	74,000	76,200	82,600	1,000,000
Reported:							
Refined zinc	484,000	21,500	22,100 ^r	20,200	19,500	19,400	248,000
Ores ^c (zinc content)	732	61	61	61	61	61	732
Zinc-base scrap ^{e,6} (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800	178,000
Copper-base scrap ^{e,6} (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	148,000
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap ^{e,6} (zinc content)	603	50	50	50	50	50	603
Total ^c	811,000	48,700	49,400 ^r	47,500	46,800	46,700	575,000
Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:							
Producer and consumer ⁷	XX	36,700	37,100	36,500	36,400	36,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	10,100	--	--	8	--	--	250
Imports for consumption:							
Refined zinc	758,000	53,400	62,200	52,500	54,200	60,800	725,000
Oxide (gross weight)	117,000	9,230	13,600	10,900	5,010	4,550	114,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	271,000	5,800	3,100	341	12,700	9,090	63,200
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	21,800	1,400	1,750	1,510	1,010	1,510	17,000
Exports:							
Refined zinc	8,070	1,300	98	282	144	125	3,250
Oxide (gross weight)	34,900	3,290	5,170	5,600	1,660	1,580	39,900
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	816,000	184,000	189,000	37,700	35,200	13,900	725,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	102,000	11,500	8,500	10,500	1,620	2,370	91,000
Price⁸:							
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	3,241.54	1,722.70	1,735.05	1,301.49	1,152.16	1,100.01	1,874.20
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	154.40	82.17	82.72	63.01	55.84	53.42	88.93

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²May include revisions to prior months' data.

³Partially estimated.

⁴Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁵Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁶Monthly estimates are based on reported annual data from the prior year.

⁷Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁸Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008			Year to date ²
	January-December	October	November	December	
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	438,000	32,600	33,400	36,500	438,000
Other	163,000	12,200	12,700	14,100	168,000
Total	601,000	44,800	46,100	50,700	606,000
Brass and bronze	174,000	12,000	12,400	12,800	165,000
Zinc-base alloy	189,000	10,800	11,200	12,400	149,000
Other uses ³	84,500	6,390	6,530	6,820	81,600
Grand total	1,050,000	74,000	76,200	82,600	1,000,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include revisions to prior months' data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, casting, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 3
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2007:		
December	--	7,730
January-December	10,100	XX
2008:		
January	12	7,720
February	NA ³	7,730
March	89	7,640
April	--	7,640
May	41	7,600
June	--	7,600
July	101	7,500
August ⁴	--	7,500
September	--	7,500
October	8	7,490
November	--	7,490
December	--	7,490
January-December	250	XX

NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes only uncommitted inventory.

³Monthly shipments are not reflected by changes in inventory due to an inventory adjustment or shipment delay.

⁴On August 6, 2008, the Defense National Stockpile Center announced that sales of zinc from the National Defense Stockpile were suspended until further notice.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008									
	2007		October		November		December		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)								
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	271,000	\$170,000	341	\$312	12,700	\$10,100	9,090	\$6,110	63,200	\$73,200
Unwrought:										
Refined (slab) zinc	758,000	2,400,000	52,500	86,700	54,200	72,600	60,800	71,300	725,000	1,480,000
Zinc alloys	9,900	35,000	678	1,140	790	1,030	286	386	7,170	14,900
Wrought:										
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,250	8,900	154	435	82	179	313	698	2,330	6,860
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,160	12,700	216	1,130	326	1,490	132	518	3,330	17,100
Other:										
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	32,300	669	809	287	322	368	531	13,200	17,200
Powders, flakes, dust	31,300	141,000	2,350	5,770	1,870	4,070	1,530	2,400	28,500	81,200
Waste and scrap	21,800	32,500	1,510	1,400	1,010	732	1,510	1,160	17,000	20,300
Chemicals:										
Oxide	117,000	299,000	10,900	14,400	5,010	8,220	4,550	5,730	114,000	192,000
Chloride	685	3,110	31	145	46	132	23	76	462	1,780
Sulfate	31,900	34,300	4,350	4,770	1,930	2,130	2,250	2,040	41,900	45,700
Compounds, other ²	7,320	11,000	286	518	227	478	251	480	4,600	7,650

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes zinc sulfide (HTS 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (HTS 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (HTS 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2007	2008				2007	2008			
		October	November	December	Year to date		October	November	December	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):										
Canada	2,960	341	3,750	--	7,480	2,960	341	3,750	--	7,480
Ireland	99,200	--	--	--	--	99,200	--	--	--	--
Mexico	3,600	--	--	--	2,730	3,600	--	--	--	2,730
Peru	166,000	--	8,920	9,090	53,000	166,000	--	8,920	9,090	53,000
Total	271,000	341	12,700	9,090	63,200	271,000	341	12,700	9,090	63,200
Refined (slab) zinc:										
Argentina	--	--	--	5,010	5,010	--	--	--	5,010	5,010
Australia	7,000	--	--	--	--	8,040	--	25	--	25
Belgium	--	535	372	--	908	--	535	372	--	908
Brazil	1,000	--	300	407	982	1,000	--	300	407	982
Canada	563,000	42,800	35,200	35,300	563,000	563,000	42,800	35,200	35,300	563,000
China	2,850	7	--	--	215	8,120	436	--	--	1,370
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	374	--	--	--	--
Germany	--	1	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	1
India	4,190	--	--	--	--	4,190	--	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	17
Japan	--	299	--	--	1,220	25	299	--	--	1,220
Kazakhstan	49,500	306	5,010	--	38,100	49,500	306	5,010	--	38,100
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	9,470	--	--	--	702
Mexico	109,000	5,870	9,430	18,900	90,800	109,000	5,870	9,430	18,900	90,800
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	25	--	--	--	--
Peru	1,080	2,240	2,610	87	21,200	1,080	2,240	2,610	87	21,200
Russia	4,670	--	--	--	--	4,670	--	--	--	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	--	40
Sweden	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	2
Taiwan	16	--	--	--	18	16	--	--	--	18
United Kingdom	(2)	--	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	1,250	1,010	2,260	--	--	1,250	1,010	2,260
Total	742,000	52,100	54,100	60,800	724,000	758,000	52,500	54,200	60,800	725,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	669	287	368	13,200	18,600	669	287	368	13,200
Grand total	1,030,000	53,100	67,100	70,200	800,000	1,050,000	53,500	67,100	70,200	802,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5 - Continued
 U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2007	2008				2007	2008			
		October	November	December	Year to date		October	November	December	Year to date
Oxide:										
Belgium	430	--	--	--	11,600	430	--	--	--	11,600
Canada	47,500	3,370	2,940	1,780	40,400	47,500	3,370	2,940	1,780	40,400
China	341	75	72	53	346	341	75	72	53	346
Germany	1,150	103	(2)	14	1,150	1,150	103	(2)	14	1,150
Italy	15,600	5,020	3	--	25,100	15,600	5,020	3	--	25,100
Japan	1,190	25	200	76	1,490	1,190	25	200	76	1,490
Mexico	31,100	1,810	1,600	2,420	26,100	31,100	1,810	1,600	2,420	26,100
Netherlands	14,300	350	192	172	5,470	14,300	350	192	172	5,470
Peru	298	10	--	10	1,150	298	10	--	10	1,150
Spain	979	--	--	--	681	979	--	--	--	681
Sweden	3,800	--	--	--	(2)	3,800	--	--	--	(2)
Other	735	90	6	16	392	735	90	6	16	392
Total	117,000	10,900	5,010	4,550	114,000	117,000	10,900	5,010	4,550	114,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008									
	2007		October		November		December		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)								
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	816,000	\$1,170,000	37,700	\$36,900	35,200	\$24,800	13,900	\$9,470	725,000	\$598,000
Unwrought:										
Refined (slab) zinc	8,070	6,420	282	319	144	145	125	140	3,250	3,260
Zinc alloys	22,500	58,900	879	1,950	559	1,080	456	940	8,550	22,800
Wrought:										
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	26,700	39,400	2,110	3,760	2,260	4,380	1,380	2,760	28,100	47,500
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,310	20,600	290	1,280	465	1,730	197	734	4,970	20,900
Other:										
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,200	13,200	46	54	146	100	191	219	10,500	5,120
Powders, flakes, dust	19,400	36,600	849	1,640	639	1,440	970	1,890	13,000	28,500
Waste and scrap	102,000	103,000	10,500	12,300	1,620	1,810	2,370	2,460	91,000	99,100
Chemicals:										
Oxide	34,900	64,200	5,600	7,420	1,660	2,590	1,580	2,300	39,900	61,700
Chloride	1,700	2,320	133	156	101	147	83	107	1,830	2,110
Sulfate	398	708	(2)	3	5	7	5	8	578	799
Compounds, other ³	5,830	9,750	423	948	732	1,080	287	686	7,210	11,900

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes zinc sulfide (Schedule B 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (Schedule B 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (Schedule B 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American ¹	London Metal Exchange	
	¢/lb.	cash ²	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2007:			
December	111.23	106.70	2,352.29
January-December	154.40	147.03	3,241.54
2008:			
January	110.49	106.13	2,339.81
February	114.60	110.57	2,437.60
March	117.67	113.90	2,511.01
April	106.43	102.66	2,263.16
May	102.80	98.96	2,181.63
June	89.93	85.91	1,893.89
July	88.02	84.00	1,851.88
August	82.17	78.14	1,722.70
September	82.72	78.70	1,735.05
October	63.01	59.03	1,301.49
November	55.84	52.26	1,152.16
December	53.42	49.90	1,100.01
January-December	88.93	85.01	1,874.20

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

²Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.